

ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL (EMF) TASK FORCE

Meeting Summary – November 5, 2015

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT: Vincent Amerson (CEO), Roel Amara for Cathy Chidester (DHS), Paul Capraro (Pomona PD), Dardy Chen (CEO), Phil Cocker (LACFD), Dennis Cross (LACFD), Wesley L. Ford (DPH), Mark Gluba (Pomona Deputy City Manager), Keith Wood for Kevin Klar (LACFD), Alexander Li (DHS), Byron Prewett (LACFD), and Glen Stanley (LAC Sheriff)

TASK FORCE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Stan Brawer (LACFD), Michael Jordan (DPH-EH), Clayton Kazan (LACFD), and Sheila Williams (CEO)

GUEST REGISTER: Rachel Barbosa (BOS), James Barton (Live Nation), Felicia Daniele (EMA/Give a Beat), Michelle Freridge (Asian Youth Center), Lisa Gomez (Protect Our Neighborhood), Janine Jordan (Electronic Music Alliance), Simon Lamb (SRLLAW), Mark Lawrence (Association for Electronic Music), Ben Lee (DPH), Vince Lewis (Koreantown Youth + Community Center), Le Liu (Dance Safe), David Loomstein (Electronic Music Alliance), Amy Morrill (Safer Raving), Mike Olivieri (Pomona PD), Fred Payo (Asian American Drug Abuse Program), Dina Perrone (Cal State Long Beach), Stephanie Raby (DHS), Nancy Reyes (PLUR for Kidz), Gary Richards (Hard/Live Nation) Thomas Sannasardo (Dance Safe), Emanuel Sferious (Dance Safe), Christel South (Safer Raving), Dr. Jose M. Vadi (Protect Our Neighborhood), Dan Whitten (LAC Sheriff), Ray Williams (LAC Parks and Recreation), and Missi Wooldridge (Dance Safe).

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED: Meeting Agenda; Draft - EMF Task Force Meeting Minutes, dates: 9/23/15, 9/30/15 and 10/15/15; Electronic Music Community, PowerPoint presentation: "Pursuit of Happiness"; informational flyer/messaging passed out at the October 31st and November 1st event at the Pomona Fairplex: "Play Hard, Not High"

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
Call to Order	Chairman Ford called meeting to order at 9:31 a.m., a quorum was present.	
Welcome and Introduction of Task Force Members and Guests	Chairman Ford asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves and include what agency they are representing.	
Approval of meeting minutes from 9/23/15, 9/30/15, and 10/15/15	Chairman Ford moved the Task Force members to approve meeting minutes. Minutes were emailed to all members prior to meeting; they were also allowed a few minutes prior to review before motions were given on each.	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p><u>9/23/15 Meeting Minutes</u> There were no corrections noted. Chairman Ford asked for a motion to approve.</p> <p><u>9/30/15 Meeting Minutes</u> There were 4 noted corrections: three under the Medical Response subcommittee reporting section and one under the Electronic Music Community subcommittee</p> <p>Chairman Ford then asked for a motion to approve minutes.</p> <p><u>10/15/15 Meeting Minutes</u> There was 1 correction under the area of the subcommittee reporting section pertaining to the Medical Response.</p> <p>Chairman Ford then asked for a motion to approve minutes.</p>	<p>Task Force member Byron Prewett initiated the motion, Task Force member Roel Amara (on behalf of Cathy Chidester) seconded. All members then approved with no further objections.</p> <p>Corrections were noted and will be made by the Task Force administrative assistant.</p> <p>Task Force member Dardy Chen initiated the motion and Task Force member Phil Cocker seconded. All members then approved with no further objections.</p> <p>Correction is noted and will be made by the Task Force administrative assistant.</p> <p>Task Force member Byron Prewett initiated motion and Task Force member Vincent Amerson seconded. All members then approved with no further objections.</p> <p>All approved Minutes will be posted to the SAPC internet website.</p>
Electronic Music Community PowerPoint Presentation: "Pursuit of	Janine Jordan from the Electronic Music Alliance (EMA) provided a presentation with speakers representing different aspects of the Electronic Music Community with information to educate the Task	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
Happiness”	<p>Force members. She stated that the speakers along with herself are advocating for the electronic music culture and that people deserve a safe place to gather and these events actually provide a safer environment versus the mass gatherings. She added that the Electronic Music Community provides an environment of unity, love, joy, positivity, creativeness, and acceptance. Electronic music is the future and these events provide a safe place, but can be improved. Not all of the people that attend these events are on drugs. There are plans to move towards harm reduction and get away from the term “zero tolerance”. They are happy to work with law enforcement and work on a balanced approach with all stakeholders to have an unbiased reality-based education.</p> <p>Mark Lawrence from the Association for Electronic Music presented next. He informed the Task Force that his association is a voice and global trade organization that represents record labels, music artists, and promoters which operates in 25 countries around the world. Mr. Lawrence explained that the electronic music industry is a \$7 billion dollar industry. Two-thirds of the revenue comes from North America to which Los Angeles County contributes about 1/3 of the world’s revenue to that trade. Los Angeles is a major territory and global name brands have increased support to this industry. A projection in Los Angeles County by 2016, is that the electronic music industry will be the largest brand market globally. Mr. Lawrence added that the industry is no longer an underground genre, its pop-culture, with events like Coachella and mainstream music artists performing. He informed that Los Angeles County is not alone, there are many other large territories around the world that are working towards harm reduction and explains that these music festivals are no more dangerous that other mass gatherings. He added that each mass gathering has its own level of danger and challenges; such as managing the number of hospitalizations and number of people that attend. Concerned that if these events are banned and are forced to move from public to private property, then this would create unintended consequences and issues that cannot be controlled.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p>Mr. Lawrence noted and said what can be taken away from this weekend's event at the Fairplex is that there were more issues before entering the event than there were inside of the event itself. He stated that this is educational opportunity to tell people, "Don't to come to the event drunk. Don't come under the influence of drugs. Don't carry drugs in." This is a responsibility for our community to work with Los Angeles County to say, "Come to the event sober and party responsibly."</p> <p>Dina Perrone, Ph.D. and professor of criminology from Cal State Long Beach was next to present. She stated that everyone there at today's meeting shares the same goals and those are: less health issues, fewer drug and alcohol incidents, and less criminal violence. All of these goals carry harm to the population, including taxpayers such as for cost of security/law enforcement, arrests, bookings, and jail time. Risks to the electronic music population at the events can include: overcrowding, overheating, sunburns, hearing loss, dehydration that can be compounded by drugs and alcohol use. She stated that data from alcohol sales at the event can be helpful, but there is no data on drug usage/consumption at these events and having limited data hinders Los Angeles County from servicing the public properly. She added that the best practices in achieving these goals with hosting mass gatherings is that each agency should share an equal weight at these events. She stated that when there is an imbalance, there is increased risk for harm. Suggests taking a preemptive approach, such as having peer-to-peer based education which can be effective with the levels of alcohol and drug consumption.</p> <p>Missi Wooldridge, Executive Director of Dance Safe was last to present on behalf of the Electronic Music Community. Ms. Wooldridge stated that Dance Safe partners with community-based organizations to provide information for the benefit of public health. Dance Safe has an integrative approach in working before, during, and after these events. They can identify specific needs of the public and work with communities to strategize and work as a cohesive group to communicate, support, and build</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p>trust. They have assisted with the coordination of onsite drug testing (prior to consumption) and using information from testing to educate medical responders. They have also assisted in peer education that builds trust and reduces fear and encourages communication which has been shown to initiate and impact behavioral change in either harm reduction or prevention.</p> <p>Chairman Ford reiterated at the close of the Electronic Music Community's presentation that the job of the Task Force is to review the Board Motion and recommendations from 2010 as well as AB74 to determine whether or not to have these events on County property, and if they are going to continue, than what kind of policy and procedures should be in place along with public health messaging.</p> <p>Chairman Ford then moved for questions and comments from the Task Force members and public on the presentation given.</p> <p>Q: Based on Dr. Cyrus Rangan's presentation from the last meeting, is there no effective way to drug test?</p> <p>A: Currently there is no accurate testing available, however there are a couple of alternative tests using spectrometers that can provide information on the molecular structure and proportion, but cannot identify a specific drug type.</p> <p>Comments from the Task Force were made that drug testing is a violation of the RAVE Act and the committee is not going to make that recommendation to the Board. In addition law enforcement is not going to watch and allow drugs to be exchanged, because it is against the law.</p> <p>Comment from the public stated that something to explore is to drug test what was confiscated from the Amnesty Bins and post those results for future educational purposes.</p> <p>Q: From the PowerPoint presentation, what does "PPTT" stand for?</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p>A: Persons-Per-Ten-Thousand (term used in comparisons of electronic music events versus other mass gatherings)</p> <p>Comment from public stated that having Amnesty Bins at all mass gatherings and not just at electronic music events, it may help in getting around violations of the RAVE Act. Added that this is an opportunity for the Board of Supervisor to take a responsible approach in harm reduction and realize that zero tolerance doesn't work. There is also a financial benefit to have these events on County property</p> <p>Comment from public stated there is concern if these events are banned from County (public) property and move to private property. There would be a missed opportunity to manage and educate and control these types of events.</p>	
<p>Reports from subcommittee leads</p>	<p>Chair Ford moved towards reports from the subcommittees</p> <p><u>Medical Response</u></p> <p>Stephanie Raby (DHS) reported that there were fewer transports from this past event versus the one during summer. On Saturday (10/31/15) there was 1 transport and Sunday (11/1/15) there were 3. The subcommittee has one more scheduled meeting and waiting for County Counsel to provide feedback before presenting their draft recommendations to the Task Force. Roel Amara stated that there were approximately 33,400 attendees at the two-day event and compared to the number of transports, that equated to .012%. Mr. Amara also stated that the number of transports was significantly less compared to the West Hollywood held on Saturday, which had an estimated 250,000 attendees with 49 transports. Ms. Raby stated there was a difference in the Medical Response set-up between the event at the Fairplex and West Hollywood. A noted difference was an on-site emergency physician that contributed to the less number of transports from the Fairplex.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p><u>Safety and Security</u></p> <p>Los Angeles County Sherriff Deputy Dan Whitten reported that the subcommittee met briefly this morning and stated they got a good start on the recommendations and will have something to present to the Task Force at the next meeting.</p> <p>Pomona PD Chief, Paula Capraro reported that the goal of this past weekend event was to pass out messaging. He stated that attendees were positive and receptive to their presence. Pomona PD took what Live Nation and Hard Events had with the 6 Amnesty Bins and placed security officers next to the bins and had the officers reiterate (out loud) the messaging that this was their “last chance” to dump their drugs or whatever illegal items they intended on taking into the event. He added that those who were arrested for possession stated that although they saw the bins, they thought they could still get away with it. He provided data on the arrests that were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 310 arrests were made over the 2-day event • 84 were due to being under the influence of alcohol or drugs • 62 were due to possession of drugs or controlled substance • 119 were due to false identifications • 7 were for sales of drugs or controlled substance • 14 were arrested in and around the event <p>He stated, that at his request, the California Highway Patrol brought in a task force that had DUI checkpoints around the Fairplex. He added that there were more arrests on Sunday versus Saturday, in addition to more drugs being confiscated from the Amnesty Bins on Sunday versus Saturday. He noted that the Amnesty Bins were only made available on the way into the event and they are currently working with Ben Lee to get the drugs weighed, tested, and sorted.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p>A situation that was identified to which he is going to work on for future events is that there were individuals who were placed in their custody, then because of a need, taken to the medical tent for treatment. If they were released from the medical tent, they were then allowed back to the event. He stated that he does not want this to happen. If a person is released from the medical tent, then a decision will be made to either keep them in custody or have them leave the event entirely. He stated that harm reduction is a good push, but there is a need to stop the drugs from going into an event. Law enforcement will not stand by and watch this happen, their job is to protect people. Last, he stated that they were consistently watching social media and reading tweets from people telling others not to bring drugs into the event.</p> <p><u>Best Practices and Education</u> Ben Lee reported the subcommittee met on 10/22/15 and they will have the revised recommendation by next week. They are taking the data gathered from this past weekend event. Next subcommittee meeting will be 11/12/15.</p> <p><u>Electronic Music Community</u> Janine Jordan reported that the subcommittee has merged with the Best Practices and Education subcommittee and will be with them on 11/12/15 for their final recommendations. One comment or recommendation that she had for the Safety and Security subcommittee to think about was to possibly have peer safety advocates next to the Amnesty Bins instead of law enforcement, because it can still seem intimidating for people to drop in contraband if they are being watched.</p>	
Public Comments (Comments from the public on Items of Interest within the Task Force Subject Matter Jurisdiction)	<p>Chairman Ford moves towards public comments</p> <p>Emanuel Sferious from Dance Safe commented that is working to amend the RAVE Act.</p> <p>Mark Lawrence from Association of Electronic Music asked what is the definition of Electronic Music Festival is to this committee.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
	<p>A County policy was presented and stated that an Electronic Music Festival is defined as,</p> <p><i>“A dance party, also known as a Rave that features fast-paced, repetitive electronic music with accompanying light shows. Generally, attendees are a youth oriented subculture that blends art, music, and social ideas.”</i></p> <p>Dr. Jose M. Vadi a representative from Protect Our Neighborhood and resident of Pomona stressed his concerns over these events at the Fairplex. He mentioned issues from the event that took place over the summer that included issues with overcrowded parking in the neighborhoods, indecently clothed people running and yelling in the streets, people urinating on resident’s lawns, loud music from the event, the stress of medical emergencies that stem from these events putting pressure on the local hospitals, and the drug-related deaths are very upsetting to the residents. He stated that Pomona is known for being a low-income neighborhood and feels that city officials and the promoters to these events are taking advantage of that. He worries that this type of publicity is lowering his home value which sits right across from the Fairplex. He firmly and passionately stated that the residents do not want these events to take place in their neighborhood.</p> <p>Gary Richards from Hard/Live Nation wanted to note that the parking at this past weekend’s event was free to all attendees; the promoters paid for it along with all of the medical and security support. He wanted to press the importance to Mr. Vadi that the promoters want to work with the community and local law enforcement to make these events as positive of an experience for everyone involved. Their intent is not to disrupt the neighborhood.</p>	

Topic	Discussion/Finding	Recommendations, Response, Action, Follow-up
Discuss Net Steps of Task Force	Chairman Ford moved to discuss next steps of the Task Force. He stated that the subcommittees need to work diligently on getting their recommendations finalized so that they can be combined and drafted so that all Task Force members can review at the next meeting. There, any further changes or recommendations can be made. Stated that this Task Force has about 2 more meetings before the recommendations goes before the Board of Supervisors.	
Adjourn to the next meeting	Chairman Ford adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled to take place: Thursday, November 19, 2015 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 1000 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803 A9 East Building, Ground Floor Conference Room G-2	Mario Salcedo to send out reminder of next meeting date and time.